

Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
Senior Action Day Top Concerns of Older Arizonans

Topic of Concern	Totals	Ranking of Concerns	
<u>Assistance & Information on Aging & Disability Resources</u>		Health Care (36)	#1
Uncertainty of where to begin looking for help	3	Independence – Aging in Community (28)	#2
		Elder Abuse, Neglect or Financial Exploitation (12)	#3
Lack of knowledge on what to search for	3	Transportation (11)	#4
		Retirement Security (10)	#5
Lack of technology or inability to use technology to find information and resources	1	Assistance & Information on Aging & Disability Resources (8)	#6
Cost & eligibility requirements of available resources identified			
Other			
How to reach those without computers	1		
Total for Assistance & Information on Aging & Disability Resources	8		
<u>Elder Abuse or Neglect; Financial Exploitation</u>			
Lack of knowledge on what is elder abuse, neglect or exploitation			
Uncertainty on how to identify elder abuse, neglect or exploitation			
Lack of knowledge on reporting abuse, neglect or exploitation to Adult Protective Services and how they can help			
Lack of knowledge on prevention of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation *licensed notary publics need training	1		
Victim's reluctance to report abuse, neglect or exploitation due to fear, embarrassment, feelings of hopelessness	2		
Other			
No licensing requirement for home care workers increases risk of abuse/fraud	1		
State doesn't require banks to accept legal POA's	1		

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Seniors victimized and barriers to helping	2
How to inquire about scam – 800 number to call to inquire?	4
Lack of in-home services in rural areas that help lessen potential for abuse, neglect or exploitation	1
Total for Elder Abuse or Neglect; Financial Exploitation	<u>12</u>
<u>Health Care</u>	
Cost of health care	2
*doctor's offices not accepting Medicare patients	2
Access to health care services, providers & medical and/or mobility aids *specific to VA services in Verde Valley *limited healthcare plans (3 or 4) in area *VA care not covered by Medicare & billed to patient *transportation needed for health care	13
Affordable and accessible oral health care	1
Healthy aging & managing chronic disease such as heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, cancer, etc. *health issues result of poor health habits so education/change required	2
Prevention of falls that can lead to hospitalization, significant change in health status and institutionalization *coordinated effort with fire depts. to identify/assist seniors at risk * Homeless shelters turn away older adults who identify with a fall risk	5
Impact of, cost of care and support related to Alzheimer's disease and related disorders	2

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Other	
Funding to train direct care workers	1
Difficulty navigating LTC system	1
Hard to qualify for Medicaid	2
Obamacare	1
Complications of not having a physician	1
Physicians need to do better job of listening to patient	1
Elected officials need to hear from public about what is really happening	2
Total for Health Care	<u>36</u>
<u>Independence – Aging in Community</u>	
Availability of community-based long term services and supports (home health/home care/adult day health services) *mobile meals & other home services have decreased funding & hard to serve in rural areas due to distance *hunger issues in AZ *medi management issues *VA assistance to help feed seniors *Need for volunteer bank, time bank, village concept *Due to cut backs, grant funding needed to keep services going in rural areas	9
Cost of community-based long term services and supports	
Respite options for family caregivers	1
Social and civic engagement opportunities for quality of life	3
Advanced directives and end of life planning	
Other	
All ages educated and informed	3
Competency issues, legal barriers	1
State needs centralized NDNR database accessible by all emergency personnel	1
State needs long-term care plan; raise the standards for LTC facilities; provide ability to age in place/stay at home	1

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Wheelchair accessibility	1
Landlord issues	1
Housing for low-income disabled older adults; HUD housing	2
City of Maricopa no senior living but offers rent assistance	1
Crime and need for increased patrol of streets	1
Build community pride	1
Seniors won't ask neighbors for help because they are uncomfortable/fearful of them	1
Rural seniors who wanted ranches now can't keep them up in later life & are isolated	1
Total for Independence – Aging in Community	<u>28</u>
<u>Retirement Security</u>	
Lack of knowledge about retirement planning needs	1
Fear of outliving assets	
Lack of pension, contribution plan or retirement savings	
Concern about sustainability of social security	1
*Social security cuts	1
*with social security, struggle with food & housing	4
Challenges or barriers to continued employment in later life	1
Other	
Access to social security office (in Verde Valley)	1
Family unable/unwilling to help financially	1
Total for Retirement Security	<u>10</u>
<u>Transportation</u>	
Uncertainty of transportation options when giving up the keys	2
*Lack of bike paths	1
Cost of transportation (vehicle	1

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ownership, transit options)	
Lack of knowledge on how to report at-risk drivers	
Funding needed to sustain transit options/providers	1
Fear of becoming an at-risk driver	1
Other	
Lack of options in rural areas	3
Lack of options in South Mountain impacts employment opportunities	1
Distance between residences is barrier to transportation options in rural areas	1
Total for Transportation	11
Other concerns raised	
Gun regulations and competency	
Fund HOAs/neighborhood groups to collect share data on populations to help provide coordinated care	
Need for family history to leave a legacy	
Meth problem	
Speed bumps needed	
Issues with food at Senior Center	
How to hear from elected officials	
How to find out more about legislation and how to support	
Fire hydrants	
Street lights and sidewalks	